



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463 October 31, 2002

Mary Jean Collins, Treasurer Voters for Choice/Friends of Family Planning 1115 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20005

Identification Number:

C00109355

Reference:

Amended Year End Report (10/1/01-12/31/01), received 4/20/02

Dear Ms. Collins:

This letter is to inform you that as of October 30, 2002, the Commission has not received your response to our request for additional information, dated October 9, 2002. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. To ensure compliance with the provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act (the Act), please respond to this request (copy enclosed).

September 18, 2002 corrected most of the apparent problems in the letter referenced above; however, you still need to address the remaining issues related to the identification of individual contributors and payments for administrative expenses. An adequate response must be received at the Commission by November 20, 2002. Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered. Failure to provide an adequate response by this date may result in an audit of the committee. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action.

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Scott Walker on our toll-free number

(800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 1, then press 2 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or our local number (202) 694-1130.

Sincerely,

John D. Gibson

Assistant Staff Director Reports Analysis Division

Enclosure



RQ-2

Mary Jean Collins, Treasurer Voters for Choice/Friends of Family Planning 1010 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 410 Washington, DC 20007

OCT 0 9 2002

Identification Number:

C00109355

Reference:

Amended Year End Report (10/1/01-12/31/01), received 4/20/02

Dear Ms. Collins:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. The review raised questions concerning certain information contained in the report(s). An itemization follows:

-Schedule A of your report (pertinent portion(s) attached) discloses one or more contributions which appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act. 2 U.S.C. §441a(f) and 11 CFR §110.1(d) prohibit a committee and its affiliates from receiving any contribution from another political committee or person in excess of \$5,000 per calendar year.

If any apparently excessive contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must amend your original report with the clarifying information.

If any contribution you received exceeds the limits, you may have to refund the excessive amount. The funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt, (1) the excessive amount was properly reattributed to another person, such as a joint account holder, by obtaining signed written authorizations from each person making the contribution pursuant to 11 CFR 110.1(k)(3), and (2) the treasurer informs the person making the contribution that he or she may request the return of the excessive portion of the contribution if it is not intended to be a joint contribution. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

VOTERS FOR CHOICE/FRIENDS OF FAMILY PLANNING PAGE 2

Alternatively, the funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt you (1) transferred the excessive amount to an account not used to influence federal elections, and (2) provided written notice to the person making the contribution of the option of receiving a refund. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions for reattributions or transfers to a non-federal account were not met within 60 days of receipt, the excessive amount must be refunded.

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for any transfer-out or refund. In addition, any reattributions should be reported as memo entries on Schedule A of the report covering the period during which the authorization for the reattribution is received. Any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding the acceptance of an excessive contribution(s), prompt action by your committee to seek reattribution, transfer-out or refund the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule A of your report (pertinent portions attached) discloses one or more contributions which appear to be from a corporation(s). 2 U.S.C. §441b(a) prohibits the receipt of contributions from corporations unless made from a separate segregated fund established by the corporation.

If any apparently prohibited contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with clarifying information.

If you have received a prohibited contribution(s), you may have to make a refund. If within 30 days of receipt you (1) transferred the prohibited amount to an account not used to influence federal elections, and (2) provided written notice to the person making the contribution of the option of receiving a refund, you may retain the contribution in an account not used to influence federal elections. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

VOTERS FOR CHOICE/FRIENDS OF FAMILY PLANNING PAGE 3

If the foregoing conditions for transfers to a non-federal account were not met within 30 days of receipt, the prohibited amount must be refunded. See 11 CFR 103.3(b)(1).

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for any transfer-out or refund. In addition, any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report covering the period during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of a prohibited contribution, prompt action by your committee to transfer-out or refund the amount will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule A of your report discloses one or more contributions from an organization which is not a political committee registered with the Commission (pertinent portion(s) attached). In addition, the contribution(s) appears to exceed the limits set forth in the Act. 2 U.S.C. §441a(f) precludes a political committee from receiving contributions from a person or another committee in excess of \$5,000 in a calendar year. Also, in order to make contributions to your committee, organizations which are not political committees must either: 1) establish a separate account which contains only those funds permitted under the Act, or 2) demonstrate through a reasonable accounting method that the organization has received sufficient funds subject to the limitations and prohibitions in order to make the contribution. 11 CFR §102.5(b)

If your committee does not finance non-federal activity, the receipt of the referenced contribution(s) may violate the limitations and prohibitions of 2 U.S.C. §§441a(f) and 441b. If your committee engages in both federal and non-federal activity, either through a separate non-federal account, or one account that finances activity in connection with both federal and non-federal elections, your committee may be in violation of 11 CFR §102.5(a).

In order to be in compliance with the Act, your committee must: 1) refund to the donor or transfer-out to a non-federal account, the amount in excess of \$5,000 within 60 days of receipt and provide written notice to the person making the contribution of the option of receiving a refund. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored. And 2) determine the extent to which your committee received funds that are not permissible, and refund or transfer-out the prohibited funds.

VOTERS FOR CHOICE/FRIENDS OF FAMILY PLANNING PAGE 4

To the extent that your committee has received prohibited funds, you may have to make a refund. If within 30 days of receipt you (1) transferred the prohibited amount to an account not used to influence federal elections, and (2) provided written notice to the person making the contribution of the option of receiving a refund, you may retain the contribution in an account not used to influence federal elections. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions for transfers to a non-federal account were not met within 30 days of receipt, the prohibited amount must be refunded. See 11 CFR 103.3(b)(1).

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for any transfer-out or refund. Should you choose to transfer-out or refund the funds, the Commission will presume the funds were impermissible, absent a statement from your committee to the contrary. Transfers-out and refunds should be disclosed on a Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report covering the period during which they are made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of prohibited and excessive contribution(s), your prompt refund or transfer-out will be taken into consideration.

-Commission Regulations require that a committee disclose the identification of all individuals who contribute in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. (11 CFR §104.3(a)(4)(i)) Identification for an individual is defined as the full name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer. (11 CFR §100.12) Your report discloses contributions from individuals for which the identification is not complete.

You must provide the missing information, or if you are unable to do so, you must demonstrate that "best efforts" have been used to obtain the information. To establish "best efforts," you must provide the Commission with a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. Establishing "best efforts" is a three-fold process.

First, your original solicitation must include a clear and conspicuous request for the contributor information and must inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information. (11 CFR §104.7(b)(1))

VOTERS FOR CHOICE/FRIENDS OF FAMILY PLANNING PAGE 5

Second, if the information is not provided, you must make one follow-up, stand alone effort to obtain this information, regardless of whether the contribution(s) was solicited or not. This effort must occur no later than 30 days after receipt of the contribution and may be in the form of a written request or an oral request documented in writing. (11 CFR § 104.7(b)(2)) The request must:

- clearly ask for the missing information, without soliciting a contribution;
- inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information, and
- if the request is written, include a pre-addressed post card or return envelope.

Third, if you receive contributor information after the contribution(s) has been reported, you shall either a) file with your next regularly scheduled report, an amended memo Schedule A listing all the contributions for which additional information was received; or b) file on or before your next regularly scheduled reporting date, amendments to the report(s) originally disclosing the contribution(s). (1) CFR §104.7(b)(4))

Please provide the missing information or a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. For more information on demonstrating "best efforts," please refer to the Campaign Guide.

-On Schedule A supporting Line 11(a)(i) of the Detailed Summary Page, your report disclosed contributions from individuals that omit the contributor address. Please amend your report by supplying the information. 11 CFR §164.3(a)(4)(i)

-Please amend your report by providing the address and purpose for each disbursement itemized on Schedule B supporting Line(s) 21(b).

-Your report discloses no payments for administrative expenses. Administrative expenses are payments made for the purpose of operating a political committee including, but not limited to, rent, utilities, salaries, telephone service, office equipment and supplies. Any such payments to a person aggregating in excess of \$200 in a calendar year must be disclosed on Schedule(s) B supporting Line 21(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. 2 U.S.C. §434(b)(5) If these expenses are being paid by a connected organization, your Statement of Organization must be amended to reflect this relationship. 2 U.S.C. §433(b)(2) In addition, if expenses have been

VOTERS FOR CHOICE/FRIENDS OF FAMILY PLANNING PAGE 6

incurred but not paid in a reporting period, the activity should be disclosed as a debt on Schedule D, if the obligation is \$500 or more, or outstanding for sixty days or more. 11 CFR §104.11

Any goods or services provided to your committee by a person, except volunteer activity (i.e., a person's time), would be considered an in-kind contribution from that person, and would be subject to the disclosure requirements of 2 U.S.C. §434(b)(3) and 11 CFR §104.13, and the limitations and prohibitions of 2 U.S.C. §§441a and 441b.

Clarification regarding administrative expenses should be disclosed during each two year election cycle beginning with the first report filed in the non-election year. Please verify that all expenses referenced above (i.e., rent, salaries, utilities, etc.) have been adequately disclosed. If these services have been provided by volunteers, please confirm this in writing.

A response or amendment to your original report(s) correcting the above problem(s) should be filed with the Federal Election Commission within fifteen (15) days of the date of this letter. Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me on our toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 1, then press 2 to reach the Reports Analysis Division). My local number is (202) 694-1130.

Scott Walker

Senior Campaign Finance Analyst

Reports Analysis Division

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